



IN TOUCH

Newsletter of the Echuca Historical Society Inc.



Cover Photo

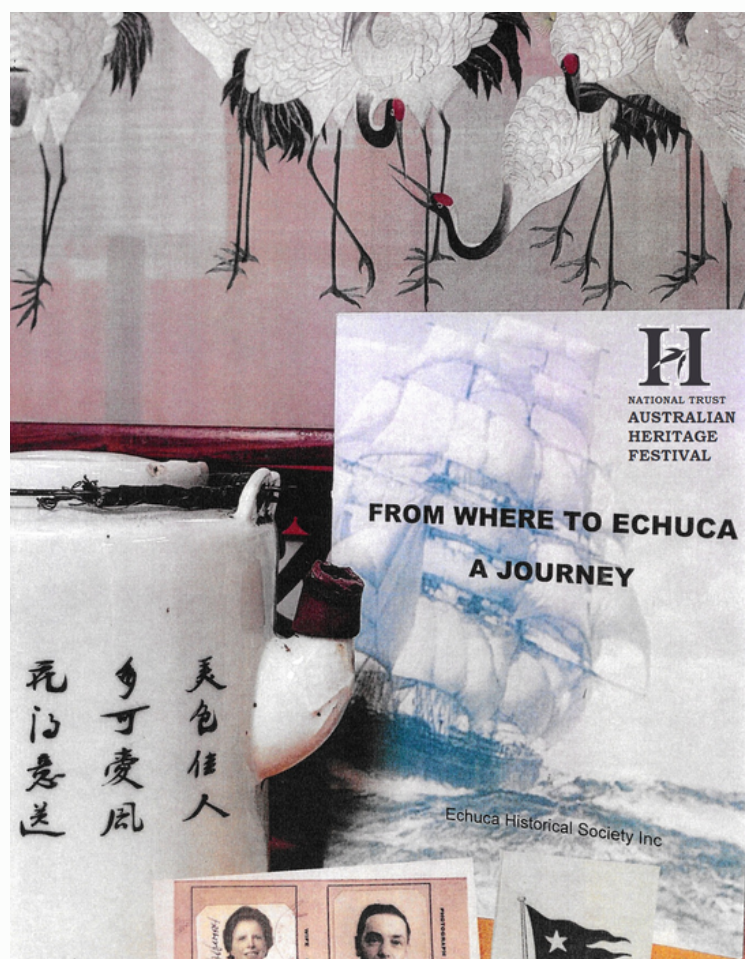
An early map dating to 1857, illustrated by George Willis. It shows some of Echuca's earliest buildings and Hopwood's punt crossings over the Murray and Campaspe rivers. Of interest is the large domed building, which was better known as the Matthew Brothers, ship chandlers store. Formerly located where Freeman's old foundry used to be. The site is currently occupied by the Foundry Art Space. George Willis was a prolific map maker focusing primarily on Central and Northern Victoria. A number of his maps are displayed at the Public Records Office of Victoria.

Editors Notes...

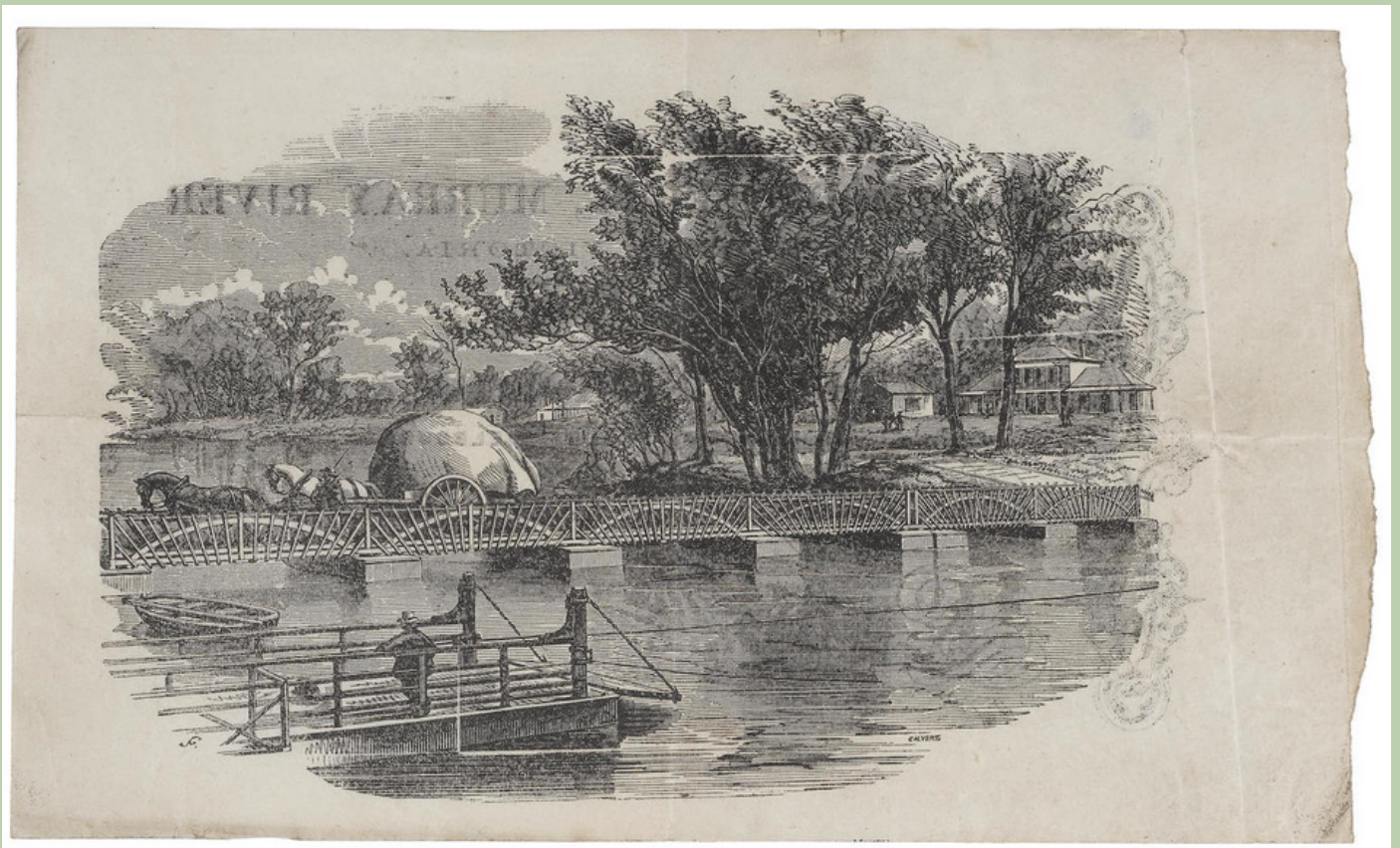
Welcome everyone to 2024 and the first newsletter of the year. As we gear up, we have several events and exhibitions planned. First up is the National Trust 2024 Heritage Festival which is a nationwide event. This year's theme is Connections. EHS has embraced the theme and will be exploring those historic and modern immigrant connections that have shaped and influenced our local community.

The yard is full of activity at the moment, and I am pleased to inform you all that our back fence is soon to be replaced. This has been a long time coming, but our Western neighbours have been most accommodating.

Lastly, you may have seen a few new faces around the place lately. A few gentlemen heard our call for help and are freely giving their time to keep our outdoor exhibits spick and span.



Occasionally while scouring the internet/newspapers for research information I will come across strange or interesting items and articles often published in the Riverine Herald. These are just some of them...



An interesting £1 note, privately issued by William Nicholson & Co. a large mercantile firm based in Melbourne, with a quite detailed engraving of Hopwood's Ferry on the reverse. c. 1859

Small Staff, Big Impact: Preserving the Past with GeniePlus

GENIEPLUS

Success Story

ECHUCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GOALS

- Intuitive system with minimal training required
- Collection organization, structure, and accessibility
- Remote working ability

“The speed of uploading and rapid data entry is the best thing since sliced bread. Everybody who uses GeniePlus loves it.”

Dot Hammond
Archivist
Echuca Historical Society

The Echuca Historical Society in Victoria, Australia is a local history museum, focused on recording the early settlement along the Murray River, with an extensive collection including photos and archives going back to the early 19th century. Available to peruse are river charts, records of floods, information on paddle steamers that traveled up and down the Murray, and materials that tell the stories of the men and women who made their life in Echuca. Visitors will see photographs of early river crossings and early transport including bullock teamsters and railways, alongside images of the first settlers in the area. There are also costume collections, and an outdoor area with stationary engines, horse drawn transport equipment, and other items relating to forestry, farming, and life on the land.

The Echuca Historical Society originally used DB/Textworks but



Description	
VIEW RECORD	
Collection	Information
Surname	Norris Roy
Page	45
Date	pre 1900.
Cross References	Pioneers EM Book
Storage/File/Cabinet Location	Library
Entered By	D Dean
Date/Time Entered	15/11/2023 10:19:03 AM
Date/Time Modified	15/11/2023 10:19:03 AM

over time found themselves needing an ILS with more flexibility to organize and structure their holdings in addition to being Web-based and vendor hosted (SaaS) since they do not have local IT support. They explored GeniePlus and its suitability for their collection, seeking the input of peer colleagues who use it, and given their positive experience with Lucidea, dating from the late 1990s, it was an easy decision to migrate to GeniePlus.

The Society is staffed with volunteers, several of whom were not comfortable using the earlier system; notably, they are all “coming on very nicely” with GeniePlus, according to Ms. Hammond, and as a team, they are inputting over 1,000 entries each week. One current project involves adding all the records from the local hospital, with information going back to the 1830s. The database includes primarily print materials, but they now look forward to adding their sizeable collection of images.

RECORD	
Location	Museum
Collection Number	6059.2
Item Name	Photographs
Description	.1 Large photo of Herbert Kemp 1915 in Egypt. Large wooden frame 2. Large photo of Herbert's mother, Mary Theresa Kent
References	The Kent Brothers began the first taxi and carrying service in Echuca / Moama after the 1st WW using horse and
File/Cabinet Location	Photos are in Garage B 3. The frames are in the worker's shed
Item Name	Kevin & Sophie Bravo.
Address	0418552901
User Name	J Hollingsworth
Created By	J Hollingsworth
Created	13 / 11 / 2022
Date Entered	12/11/2022 3:38:30 PM
Date Modified	12/11/2022 3:38:30 PM

Ms. Hammond tells us the implementation and training was excellent, and the system is very intuitive. Another significant benefit for the staff is the ability to work remotely, as several of the volunteers work from home. The powerful searching capabilities in GeniePlus really improve their workflow and knowledge of the collection.

Although they considered offering a public portal or otherwise expressing the database through their website, Ms. Hammond has decided not to at this time, instead preferring to offer several onsite computers for visitor use. This way, the Society staff can interact with and assist users in their research on family history—the most common interest—while benefiting from visitor revenue, which is critical since they do not have municipal funding or sponsors.

Everything in their collection is donated and then evaluated for inclusion by the Collections Manager; since they are a local history museum, items must come from within the Echuca Moama 40 km radius. In addition to their collection, the Society offers research services, advisory services, walking tours, and guest speakers. The information they are now able to organize, structure, and access within GeniePlus supports all these activities.



Notably, the Echuca Historical Society has received a number of accolades, including the below. Lucidea is very proud to number them among our heritage organization clients.

- 2014 Certificate of Accreditation - Museums Australia (Victoria)
- 2014 Australia Day Award - Arts Group of the Year-Echuca & District
- 2018 Finalist Victorian Tidy Towns - Culture & Sustainability
- Recognition Statement of Sustainability and Reconciliation
- 2019 DWELP Award for recognition of outstanding contribution to the local community
- 2020 Certificate of Accreditation - Museums Australia (Victoria)

In closing, Ms. Hammond told us, “Lucidea’s excellent client support is the biggest thing, and their understanding of the requirements and constraints unique to the heritage sector is very helpful. We are a little country museum staffed mainly by volunteers. We now know what we have, and where it is. GeniePlus and the Client Services team take the pressure off.”

ABOUT LUCIDEA

Lucidea is the premier knowledge management software company, helping people navigate the ever expanding universe of information, turning it into actionable knowledge. We achieve this by providing tools that accelerate access to knowledge resources, while simplifying their management.

To learn more about GeniePlus and how it can help solve your library management and automation challenges, visit lucidea.com/genieplus

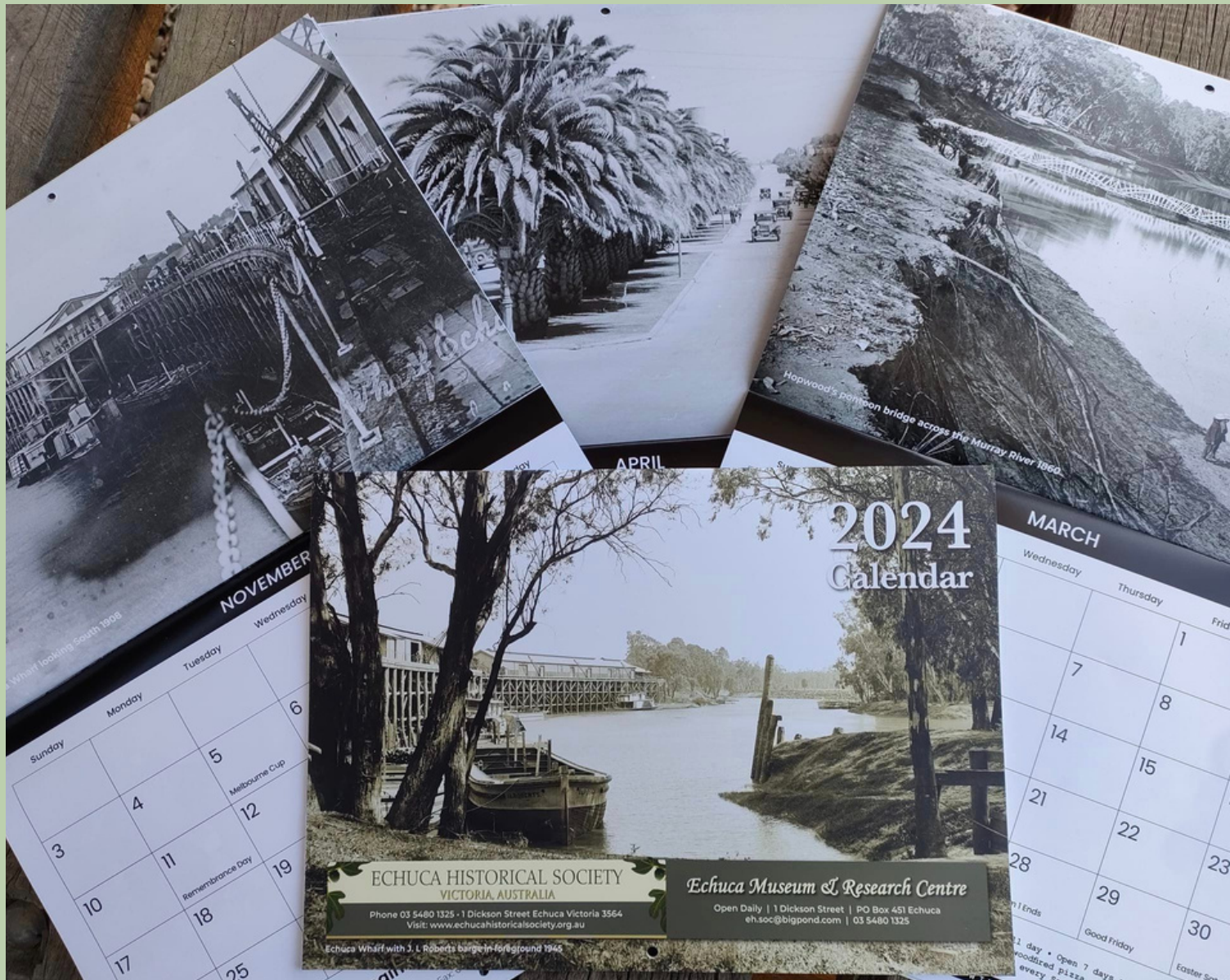
CONTACT LUCIDEA

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EHS 2024 Calendar

We are down to our last 20 calendars. Make sure you secure your copy today. All proceeds go back into our museum.

Thank you to our very generous sponsors below.



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Calendar

National Trust Heritage Festival
18 April-19 May

Campaspe Library Discovery Day
16th March

Coming General Meetings
14th March
11th April
9th May

Around the Traps

We are looking for volunteers to help out with our displays and exhibitions. If this sounds interesting to you, or you'd like more information, please reach out. Our textile displays are approaching change over time, so here is your opportunity to get up close and personal with some of our exceptional artefacts.

Contact the President or Treasurer

WANTED

Have an idea for an article or a photo you would like to see published in the newsletter? Put pen to paper or have a hunt through those personal archives and see what you can find.

All related content welcome.

Please drop the President a line at
eh.soc@bigpond.com or mawilson85@gmail.com

Hot off the Press

Our new fence is up and it certainly looks lovely. While not fully completed, we are sure this one will last as long as our old fence.



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